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COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

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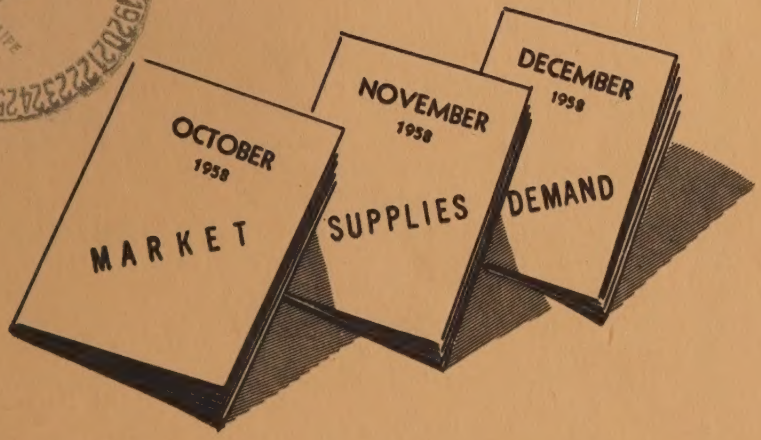

October - December 1958

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Fishery Leaflet 336 LL

COMMERCIAL
FISHERIES
OUTLOOK

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior

Fishery Leaflet 336 LL

Washington 25, D. C. October 1958

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Prepared in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

October - December 1958

THE OUTLOOK AT A GLANCE

BUSINESS ACTIVITY.....	The economy is emerging from the recession but we cannot tell when it will reach peak. However, the worst is over, and business is stimulated.
FOOD.....	Supplies generally plentiful, with meat down about 4 percent from last year.
FISHERY PRODUCTION.....	Beginning seasonal decline. Stocks low.
MARKETS, EDIBLE FISH.....	Generally steady.
MARKETS, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.....	Fish oils and meal, steady.
IMPORTS.....	High for groundfish fillets and blocks, frozen and canned tuna, shrimp, canned oysters, and fish meal.
EXPORTS.....	Large declines in canned sardines, mackerel, anchovies, and fish oil.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

It is difficult to predict when the economy, as a whole, will return to pre-recession levels. Although there was rapid recovery of economic activity through August, there is still much more to go. From early August to early September, prices of industrial commodities generally changed little. Industrial and construction activity, nonfarm employment, and consumer buying increased further.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION - In August, industrial production stood at 137 percent of the 1947-49 average and had recovered by more than one-half the decline from August 1957 to the April 1958 low. Output of most major materials for manufacturing and construction uses was considerably higher than last spring when inventories were being liquidated rapidly.

CONSTRUCTION - Total new construction activity increased in August to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $49.4 billion, mainly because of larger volume of private residential building. Commercial construction decreased slightly, and industrial continued to decline.

EMPLOYMENT - Nonfarm employment continued slow advance in August. At 50.5 million, employment was about one-half million above the April low. The number of persons unemployed was down to 4.7 million, about 7.6 percent of the civilian labor force.

COMMODITY PRICES - The wholesale commodity price index was about stable from early August to early September. Meat prices generally decreased, but eggs advanced sharply. Prices changed little among industrial commodities.

DISTRIBUTION - Retail sales rose 1 percent in August, with expansion in most lines other than automotive, and were close to the record high of the summer of 1957. Sales at department stores increased to a level 3 percent above the previous high reached last year.

THE FOOD SITUATION

FOOD OUTLOOK

The high crop production which was forecasted for 1958 will be the result of higher yields rather than an increase in acreage. Total crop production for 1958 is expected to be about 7 percent above the record level of 1957.

MEATS

Production of meat animals is increasing, but marketings are not likely to rise until next year. Supplies of all meat for 1958 are expected to reach 25.9 billion pounds - 4 percent below those in 1957. Most of the decline is expected in beef and veal.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Total milk production for the year could approximate the 1957 record of 126.4 billion pounds despite a decline in the January-August output. Currently, milk production exceeds commercial demand to a lesser degree than last year.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Storage supplies of turkeys have declined rapidly and are about 13 percent below last year; however, they are still 50 percent above the average for the last five years. Market supplies of eggs are expected to be large over the next 3 or 4 months. During the last quarter, prices probably will be below those of a year earlier.

FATS AND OILS

Edible fats and oils will be generally plentiful in 1958-59. Total supply of these oils and oilseeds is expected to rise 10 percent from the 11.7 billion pound level of 1957-58. Exports are likely to be large again, although competition will be keen.

VEGETABLES

If this year's production reaches indicated levels, total canned vegetable supplies in 1958-59 season should be slightly above those a year earlier. Total supplies of frozen vegetables might decline slightly from the previous season. Carryover stocks of both canned and frozen vegetables are below last year.

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS on September 1 were down about 8 million pounds below those on the same date last year.

LANDINGS OF FISH AND SHELLFISH through August of 1958 reflected a drop of 8 percent compared with the same period last year. Fisheries which produced 2, 551, 000, 000 pounds in the first seven months of 1958, yielded 2, 772, 000, 000 pounds in the similar period of 1957.

HALIBUT TOTAL PRODUCTION expected to be lower than last year with resulting firm market.

IMPORTS OF SARDINES NOT-IN-OIL, through June 1958, exceeded by more than 600 percent those imported during the similar period in 1957. Large gains in shipments from the Union of South Africa.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES for fishery products as of July were the highest on record.

CANNED SALMON EXPORTS, which had been low, are expected to improve during the fourth quarter.

MENHADEN LANDINGS of 1, 023, 000, 000 pounds through August of this year were 128 million pounds less than those during the same period in 1957.

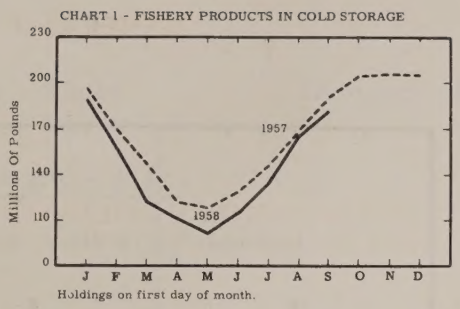
LANDINGS OF ANCHOVIES are down about 32, 000, 000 pounds from last year, while jack mackerel landings are off by 51, 000, 000 pounds.

Fishery Products in Cold-Storage

September 1

1958.....182, 915, 000 Lbs.

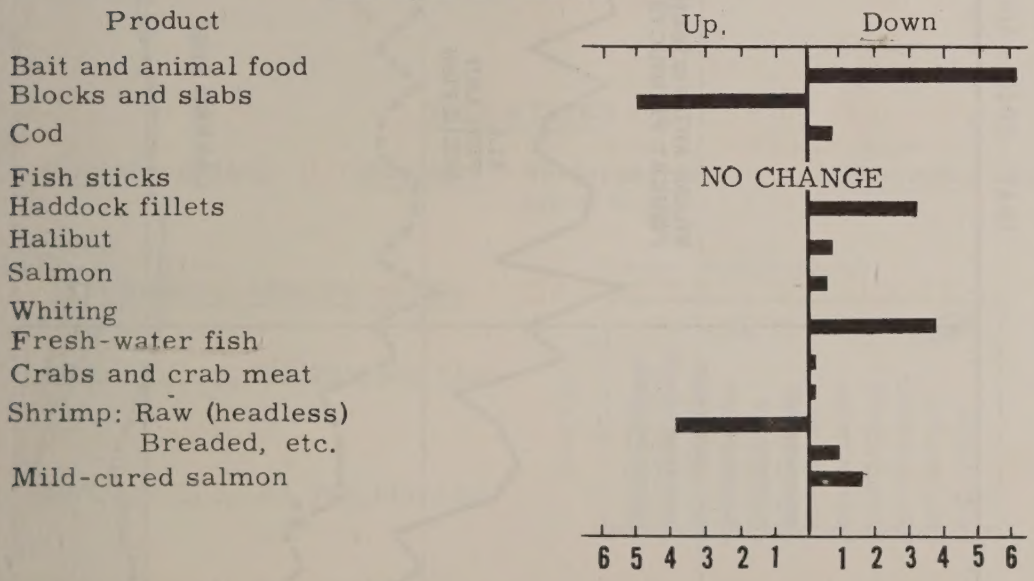
1957.....190, 995, 000 Lbs.



The cold-storage holdings of fish and shellfish on September 1, 1958 were down about 4 percent below those of the same date in 1957. Bait and animal food comprised almost 5 percent of the total 1958 holdings on September 1. The accompanying chart indicates the changes in certain species holdings from September 1, 1957.

September 1, 1958 Compared With September 1, 1957

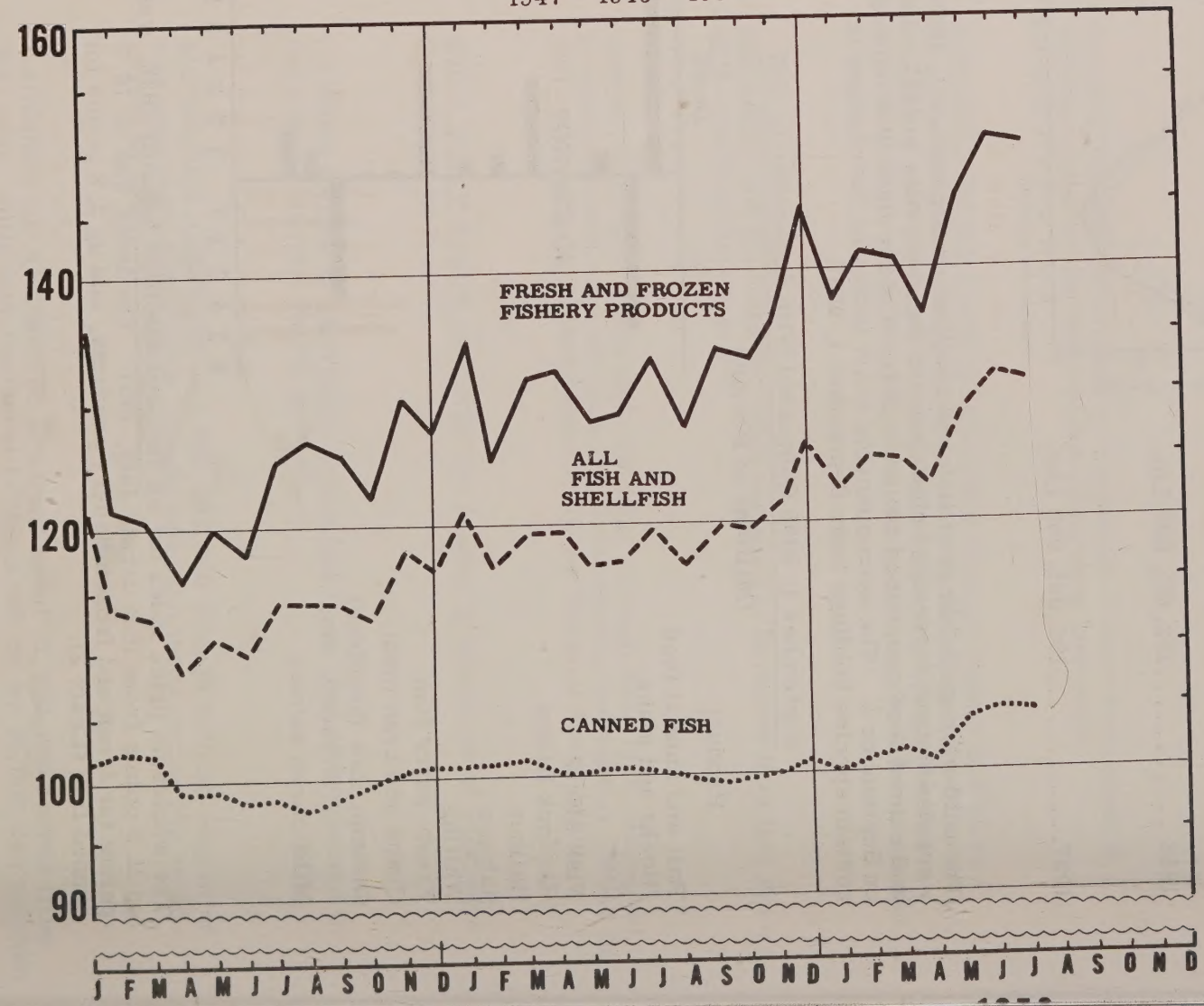
(Millions of Pounds)



The wholesale price index for all fish and shellfish for July 1958, was up 11.3 points from that during July, 1957. The index was up 16.7 points for fresh and frozen fishery products, and up 3.8 points for canned fish (Chart 2).

CHART 2 - INDEXES OF WHOLESALE FISH PRICES

1947 - 1949 = 100


160
140
120
100
90
FRESH AND FROZEN FISHERY PRODUCTS
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH
CANNED FISH
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D

ANCHOVIES, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Domestic Pack, January - July

1958..... 53,042 Std. Cases (48 Halves)

1957..... 503,120 Std. Cases (48 Halves)

Production of canned anchovies during the first half of 1958 was down about 86 percent below that during the same period in 1957.

Landings have been very light and will continue so during the fourth quarter. Inventories are almost non-existent.

Prices for canned anchovies should remain firm during the fourth quarter.

FISH STICKS

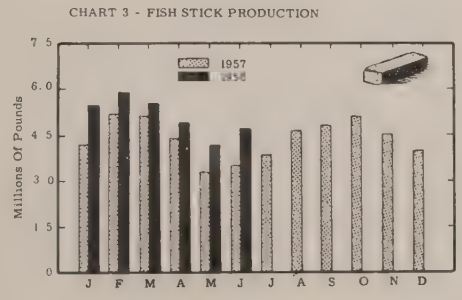
Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to Liberal Demand - Good

Production, January - June

1958..... 30,725,000 Lbs.

1957..... 25,704,000 Lbs.

CHART 3 - FISH STICK PRODUCTION



The production of fish sticks during the first six months of 1958 was 5 million pounds higher than that during the same period a year earlier (Chart 3). Cooked fish sticks amounted to 27.9 million pounds, or 90 percent of the total. Approximately 83 percent of total production was from processing plants on the Atlantic Coast Area. Plants in the Pacific Coast States accounted for 8.5 percent of production, and the Gulf and Interior States also produced 8.5 percent of the total sticks.

FISH STICKS (Cont.)

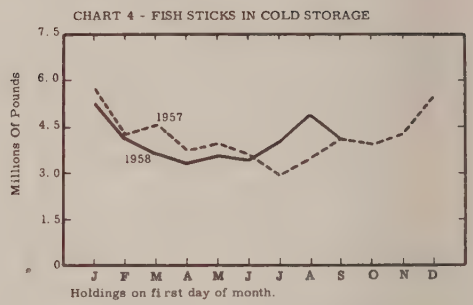
Cold-Storage Holdings

Fish Sticks

September 1

1958.....4,098,000 Lbs.

1957.....4,077,000 Lbs.



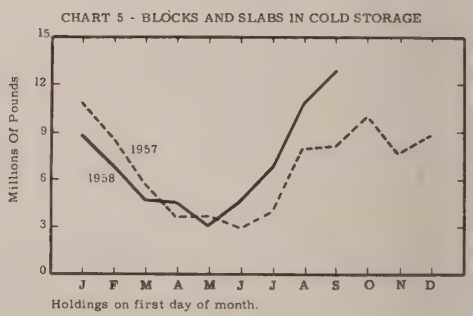
Cold-Storage Holdings

Blocks and Slabs

September 1

1958.....12,970,000 Lbs.

1957..... 7,954,000 Lbs.



Cold-storage holdings of fish sticks on September 1, 1958 were about the same as those on September 1, 1957 (Chart 4). Blocks and slabs in cold storage, however, totaled 5 million pounds more than the 1957 holdings on the same date (Chart 5).

Prices are expected to remain firm.

FLOUNDER AND SOLE

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

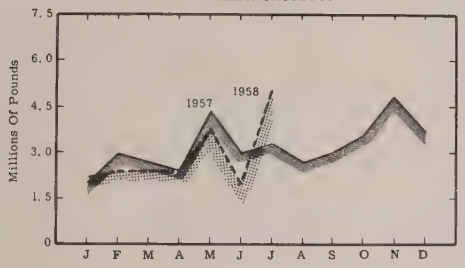
Massachusetts Landings

January - July

1958.....20,195,000 Lbs.

1957.....20,293,000 Lbs.

CHART 6 - LANDINGS OF FLOUNDER AND SOLE, MASSACHUSETTS



Landings of flounder and sole through the first seven months of 1958 were only slightly less than those during the same period last year (Chart 6). The fourth quarter catch will slack off with demand continuing good.

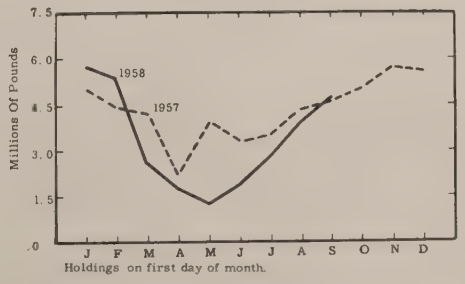
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958.....4,707,000 Lbs.

1957.....4,649,000 Lbs.

CHART 7 - FLOUNDER AND SOLE FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



On September 1, the cold storage holdings of flounder and sole were about at the same level as those of a year earlier (Chart 7). Stocks should diminish during this quarter.

FLOUNDER AND SOLE (Cont.)

Imports, January - June

(Fillets)

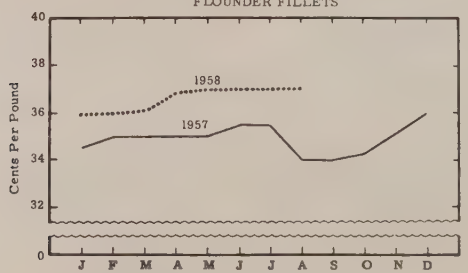
1958.....6,480,000 Lbs.

1957.....6,053,000 Lbs.

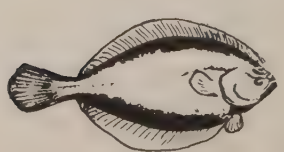
During the first six months of 1958, imports of flounder and sole were 7 percent above those during the same period in 1957. Canada is the principal supplier of these imports.

Probable slight price rise during the fourth quarter (Chart 8).

CHART 8 - WHOLESALE PRICES OF YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER FILLETS



Average price, 5 lb. carton, skinless, at Boston.



GROUNDFISH FILLETS, INCLUDING OCEAN PERCH

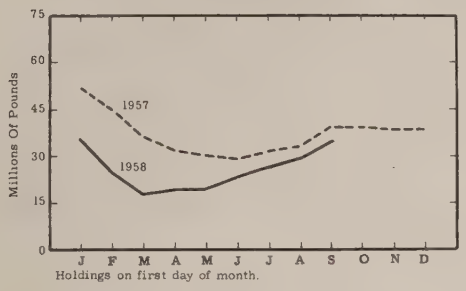
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958.....35,417,000 Lbs.

1957.....39,586,000 Lbs.

CHART 9 - GROUNDFISH FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE
(EXCLUDING BLOCKS)



Holdings on first day of month.

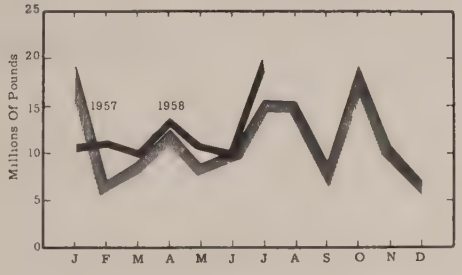
Cold-storage holdings of groundfish fillets, excluding blocks and slabs, on September 1 were almost 11 percent below those on the same date in 1957 (Chart 9). Slow inventory build up at high prices during fourth quarter.

Imports, January - July

1958.....86,244,000 Lbs.

1957.....81,881,000 Lbs.

CHART 10 - IMPORTS OF GROUNDFISH FILLETS
(INCLUDING BLOCKS)



Imports of groundfish fillets, including blocks, through July, 1958 increased by slightly more than 5 percent over those during the same period in 1957. 71 percent of total groundfish imports were from Canada during the seven month period of 1958 (Chart 10).

COD FILLETS

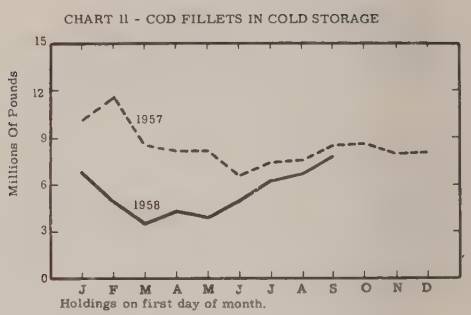
Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958.....7,750,000 Lbs.

1957.....8,408,000 Lbs.



On September 1, the cold-storage holdings of cod fillets were almost 8 percent below those of a year earlier (Chart 11). Landings have been light and will continue so in the last quarter.

Imports, January - June

1958.....20,620,000 Lbs.

1957.....18,921,000 Lbs.

During the first half of 1958, the imports of cod fillets were 9 percent greater than those during the similar period in 1957, and are expected to continue high during the last quarter.

HADDOCK FILLETS

Market - Steady | Supplies - Light-to-Moderate | Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958.....6,524,000 Lbs.

1957.....9,733,000 Lbs.

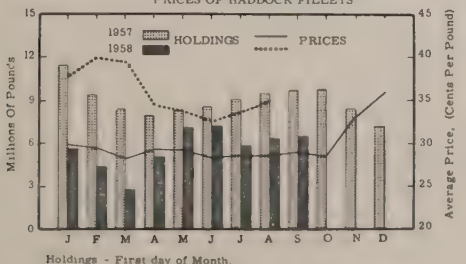
Cold-storage holdings of haddock fillets on September 1 were down 33 percent from those a year earlier (Chart 12).

Landings are expected to continue light during the fourth quarter.

Imports of haddock fillets during the first six months of 1958 were 14 percent below those during the same period in 1957. Approximately 72 percent of these imports were supplied by Canada.

Prices, which began to rise in June, are expected to continue firm throughout the last quarter in 1958 (Chart 12).

CHART 12 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF HADDOCK FILLETS



Holdings - First day of Month.
Prices - 1-lb. small, skins on, at Boston

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS

Market - Steady | Supplies - Light-to-Moderate | Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

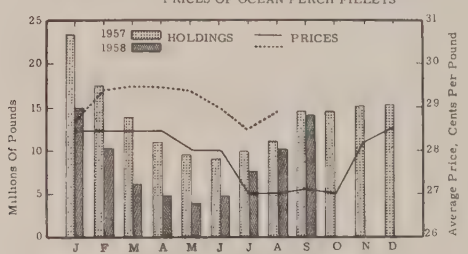
September 1

1958.....13,874,000 Lbs.

1957.....14,401,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of ocean perch fillets on September 1 were down almost 4 percent from those a year earlier (Chart 13). No appreciable build up in stocks is expected during fourth quarter.

CHART 13 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF OCEAN PERCH FILLETS



Holdings - First Day Of Month
Price - 1-lb. carton, large, skins on, at Boston.

Prices began to rise in July and are expected to remain high and firm through the last quarter of 1958 (Chart 13).

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS (Cont.)

Imports

January - June

1958..... 5,802,000 Lbs.

1957..... 5,689,000 Lbs.

Imports of ocean perch fillets during the first six months of 1958 were only 2 percent higher than those during the same period of 1957. Approximately 77 percent of the total imports was supplied by Canada.

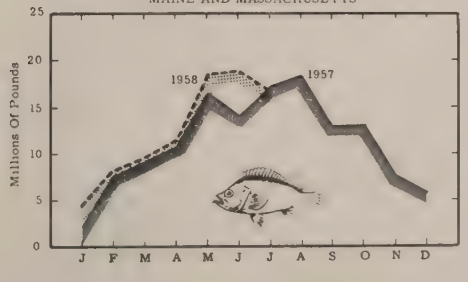
Landings of ocean perch in Maine and Massachusetts during the first seven months of 1958 were about 21 percent higher than those through July of 1957. Landings, generally should be light during the fourth quarter (Chart 14).

Landings, January - July

1958..... 90,115,000 Lbs.

1957..... 74,614,000 Lbs.

CHART 14 - LANDINGS OF OCEAN PERCH, MAINE AND MASSACHUSETTS



HALIBUT

Market - Firm Supplies - Liberal Demand - Good

Landings of halibut during the first eight months of 1958, at all Pacific ports, totaled 58.4 million pounds. This is an increase of 1.4 percent, or 830,000 pounds over landings through August of last year. The total for the year is expected to be below that of 1957.

Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

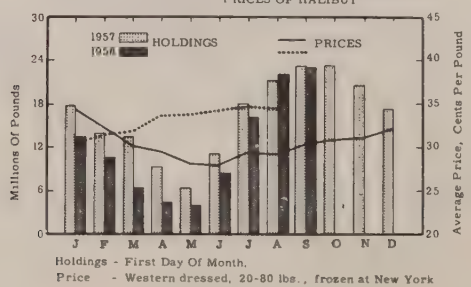
1958.....22,748,000 Lbs.

1957.....23,451,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of halibut on September 1 were 3 percent below those on the same date in 1957. Supplies should improve during the fourth quarter (Chart 15).

During August, prices were about 18 percent higher than last year and should remain rather steady.

CHART 15 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF HALIBUT



Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - Western dressed, 20-80 lbs., frozen at New York

MACKEREL, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-storage holdings of mackerel on September 1, 1958 were about 6 percent above those on the same date in 1957. The September 1 holdings this year were 1,028,000 pounds compared with 967,000 pounds on the same date last year.

Landings of mackerel, especially along the Atlantic Coast, are expected to be rather light during the fourth quarter.

Prices should continue steady.

MACKEREL, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

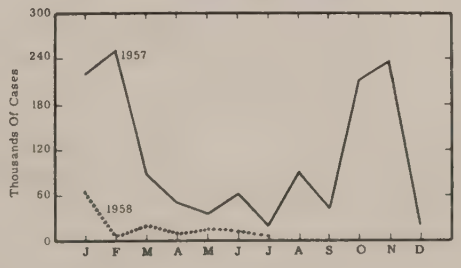
Pack of Pacific and Jack Mackerel

January - July

1958.....139,440 Std. Cases

1957.....716,248 Std. Cases

CHART 16 - CALIFORNIA PACK OF CANNED JACK AND PACIFIC MACKEREL



The pack of canned mackerel during the first seven months of 1958 was down almost 81 percent below that during the same period in 1957 (Chart 16). Landings have been extremely poor and for the first half of 1958, they were 61 percent below those of the previous year. Some improvement is possible during the fourth quarter. Prices are very firm and should remain so.

SABLEFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Improving

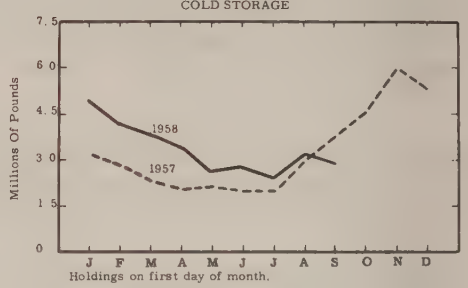
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958..... 2,933,000 Lbs.

1957..... 3,684,000 Lbs.

CHART 17 - SABLEFISH (BLACK COD) IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of sablefish on September 1 were 20 percent lower than those on the same date last year (Chart 17). Demand is expected to improve during the fourth quarter especially since prices have dropped from last year.

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Moderate

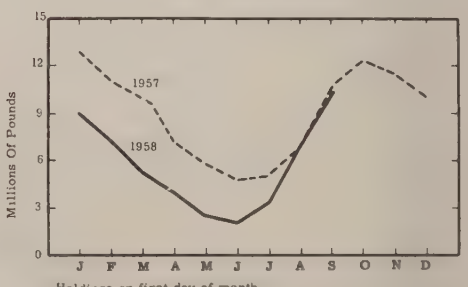
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958..... 9,876,000 Lbs.

1957..... 10,136,000 Lbs.

CHART 18 - SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of frozen salmon on September 1, 1958 were down almost 3 percent from those on September 1, last year (Chart 18).

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN (Cont.)

Imports, January - June

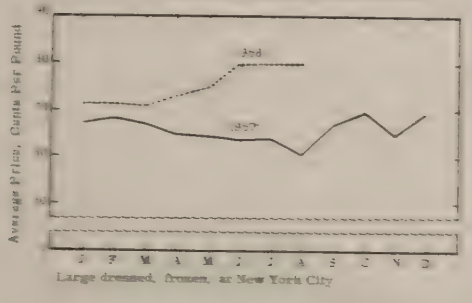
1958.....4,652,000 Lbs.

1957.....3,892,000 Lbs.

Imports of fresh and frozen salmon during the first half of 1958 were almost 20 percent higher than those during the same period in 1957.

Prices are still high and expected to remain so during the fourth quarter (Chart 19). Some consumer resistance to high prices will be noted.

CHART 19 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF KING SALMON



Large dressed, frozen, at New York City

SALMON, MILD-CURED

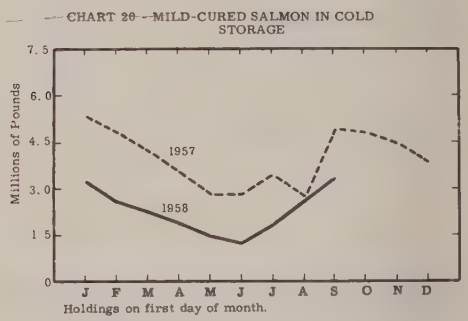
Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Moderate

Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958.....3,315,000 Lbs.

1957.....4,925,000 Lbs.



Cold-storage holdings of mild-cured salmon on September 1 were down approximately 33 percent from those a year earlier (Chart 20).

Production - A shortage exists all along the Pacific Coast and indications are that this condition will not be improved during the fourth quarter. Medium size king salmon and large quantities of silvers are being mild-cured at present time.

Prices are extremely high, which might cause some drop in consumption.

SALMON, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Alaska Pack

(Preliminary)

1958.....2,918,000 Std. Cases

1957.....2,442,000 Std. Cases

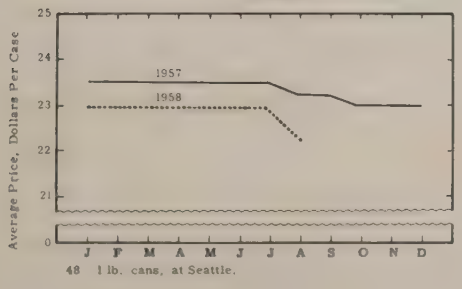
The Alaska pack of salmon for the 1958 season was almost 20 percent larger than that in 1957. According to preliminary figures, pinks represented 54 percent of total Alaskan pack. Chums were 25 percent and reds 17 percent of the total. Packs of kings were very low.

Imports of large quantities of canned salmon from Japan and Canada during the first six months of 1958 amounted to 21,290,000 pounds and were almost three times greater than those imported during the same period in 1957. Total 1957 canned salmon imports amounted to 24,401,000 pounds.

Exports - Canned salmon exports for the first six months of 1958 were 42 percent less than for the same period in 1957, but are expected to increase during the next three months.

Wholesale prices of canned pink salmon dropped during August but should level off during last quarter (Chart 21).

CHART 21 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED PINK SALMON



48 1 lb. cans, at Seattle.

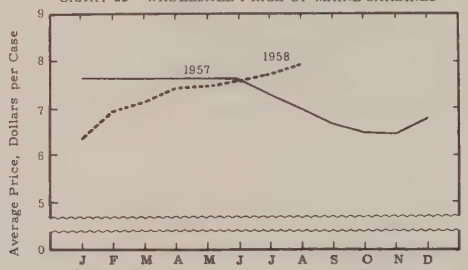
SARDINES, CANNED (MAINE)

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Moderate

The Maine sardine pack through August 30, 1958 was 1,385,000 cases (100 - 1/4 cans) compared with 1,628,000 cases during the similar period in 1957. This represented a decrease of approximately 15 percent. Fishing has been very spotty in all areas. Total pack is expected to be below that of last year.

Wholesale prices have gradually strengthened throughout this year and should remain steady during the fourth quarter (Chart 22).

CHART 22 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MAINE SARDINES



100-3¼ ounce cans, keyless, oil pack, at New York

SARDINES, CANNED (CALIFORNIA)

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Landings thus far this season have been extremely good compared with last year. The pack through September 30 is estimated at 800,000 cases whereas the total season pack for 1957 was 498,000 cases.

Prices should continue good and remain fairly steady.

Exports, January - June

(Canned Not in Oil)

1958.....3,311,000 Lbs.

1957.....9,025,000 Lbs.

Exports during the first six months of 1958 were almost 64 percent below those during the same period of 1957. Some improvement in the export situation should come about during the fourth quarter.

SARDINES, CANNED

Imports of Sardines Not-in-Oil

January - June

1958.....4,545,000 Lbs.

1957..... 689,000 Lbs.

Imports of sardines canned not-in-oil through June 1958 exceeded those imported during the same period in 1957 by more than 3.8 million pounds. This 600 percent increase was mainly a result of large gains in shipments from the Union of South Africa.

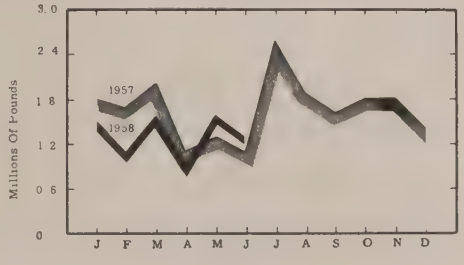
Imports of Sardines-in-Oil

January - June

1958.....7,861,000 Lbs.

1957.....9,034,000 Lbs.

CHART 23 - IMPORTS OF SARDINES CANNED IN-OIL



During the first half of 1958, imports of sardines-in-oil dropped 13 percent below those through June, 1957 (Chart 23). In this period, receipts from Norway, the principal supplier, were down almost 1 million pounds. Imports will probably rise in the fourth quarter, with prices remaining steady and high.

SWORDFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

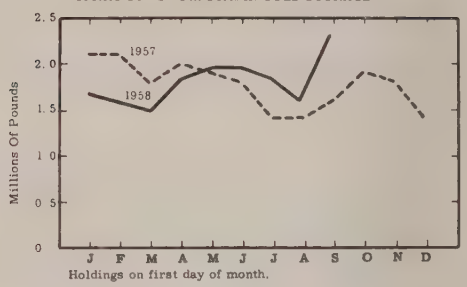
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958.....2,344,000 Lbs.

1957.....1,593,000 Lbs.

CHART 24 - SWORDFISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of swordfish on September 1 were approximately 47 percent higher than those a year earlier(Chart 24).

Imports of swordfish fillets in the first half of 1958 were up 18 percent over those in the same period last year.

Prices should remain firm during the fourth quarter.

TUNA

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cannery Receipts of Fresh and Frozen Tuna, Southern California
January - July
(In Tons)

	Imports	Domestic	Total
1958	34,104	95,399	129,503
1957	29,866	88,378	118,244

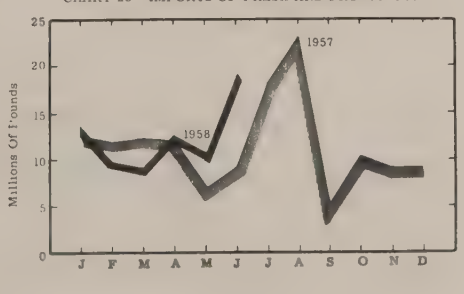
A new record for seven months ending July 31, 1958 was established with receipts of 129,503 tons of tuna at Southern California canneries. Imports accounted for approximately 26 percent of the total.

Imports, Frozen Tuna
(All U.S. Ports)
January - June

1958.....74,138,000 Lbs.

1957.....64,938,000 Lbs.

CHART 25 - IMPORTS OF FRESH AND FROZEN TUNA



Imports of frozen tuna at all U. S. ports for the first half of 1958 were 14 percent over the same period in 1957. Receipts of frozen yellowfin and skipjack from Japan more than doubled during this period, whereas receipts from Peru were down by more than 50 percent. Imports of albacore tuna were 18 percent less than those during January-June 1957.

TUNA, CANNED

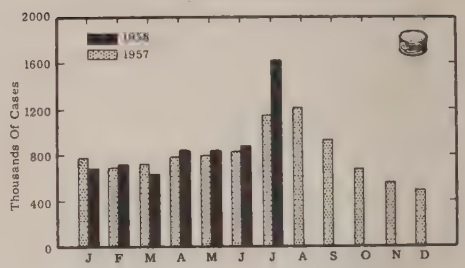
California Pack of Canned Tuna

January - July

1958..... 6,244,676 Std. Cases

1957..... 5,594,681 Std. Cases

CHART 26 - CALIFORNIA CANNED TUNA PACK



Pack - The California pack of canned tuna through July also set a new record for this period (Chart 26). The case pack exceeded by 6 percent the former record for a seven month period set in 1956.

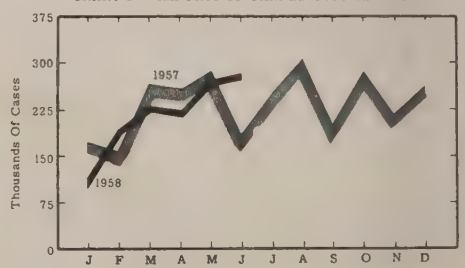
Imports of Canned Tuna and Bonito

January - June

1958..... 1,360,000 Std. Cases

1957..... 1,388,000 Std. Cases

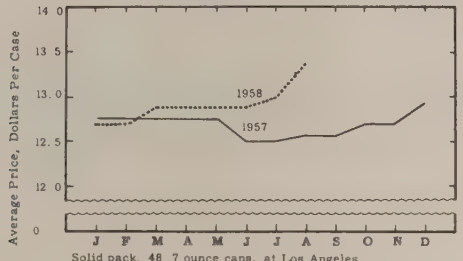
CHART 27 - IMPORTS OF CANNED TUNA AND BONITO



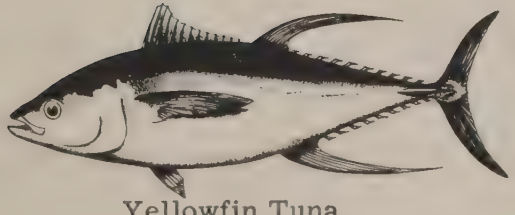
Imports of canned tuna and bonito during the first half of 1958 were only 2 percent below those through June of last year (Chart 27). However, canned albacore imports alone were 27 percent less than in the similar 1957 period. The decrease was brought about by reduced albacore catches in Japan.

Wholesale prices generally firm and should remain so through fourth quarter (Chart 28). Heavy consumer purchases of a new family can size (9 1/4 - 9 1/2 ozs.), which was recently introduced at a substantial allowance, could cause lessening of demand in fourth quarter. White meat inventory is considerably less than is usual for this time of year.

CHART 28 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED LIGHT MEAT TUNA



Solid pack, 48 7 ounce cans, at Los Angeles.
Average of weekly quotations for Advertised Brands and Other Packers' Labels.



Yellowfin Tuna
Average size, 30-40 lbs.

WHITING

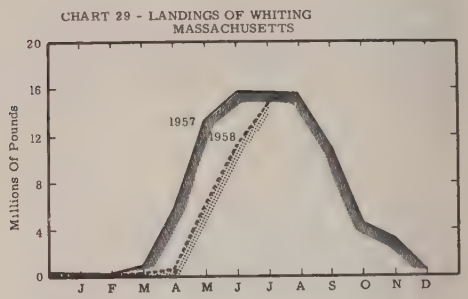
Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Landings, January - July

(Massachusetts)

1958.....32,610,000 Lbs.

1957.....50,927,000 Lbs.



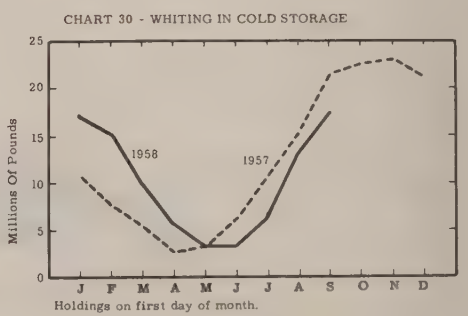
Landings of whiting in Massachusetts through July were 36 percent below those during the same period in 1957. Substantial decreases in landings will occur in the fourth quarter (Chart 29).

Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958.....17,560,000 Lbs.

1957.....21,269,000 Lbs.



Cold-storage holdings of whiting on September 1 were about 17 percent below those on the same date in 1957 (Chart 30).

Prices, after having risen slightly, should become firm during the last quarter.

CLAMS, FRESH

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

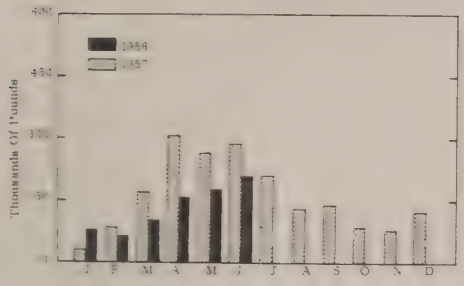
Landings, January - June

(Maine Soft Clams)

1958..... 790,000 Lbs.

1957.....1,205,000 Lbs.

CHART 31 PRODUCTION OF MAINE SOFT CLAMS



Landings of soft clams in Maine continue to decline. Through June, landings were 34 percent below those during the similar period in 1957. Seasonal fourth quarter decrease is expected (Chart 31).

Prices will remain firm.

SURF CLAMS

New Jersey Landings

January - June

1958.....6,114,000 Lbs.

1957.....9,789,000 Lbs.

CHART 32 - LANDINGS OF SURF CLAMS, NEW JERSEY

Landings of surf clams in New Jersey for the first six months of 1958 were 38 percent below those through June of 1957 (Chart 32).

Prices will remain firm even with reduced landings in fourth quarter.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production of hard crabs will be very good in the Chesapeake, South Atlantic, and Gulf areas during the fourth quarter. Pacific Coast landings of Dungeness crabs also expected to be favorable.

Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958.....2,182,000 Lbs.

1957.....2,398,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of crabs and crab meat on September 1 were 9 percent lower than those on September 1, 1957.

Prices should generally remain steady throughout fourth quarter.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED

Pack, January - August

(Gulf States)

1958.....6,692 Std. Cases

1957.....9,070 Std. Cases

Pack of canned crab meat in the Gulf States through August was down about 26 percent from the eight month pack in 1957.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED (Cont.)

Imports

January - June

1958.....2,739,000 Lbs.

1957.....3,026,000 Lbs.

Imports of canned crab meat during the first six months of 1958 were down 9 percent below those in the same period of 1957. Japan is the principal supplier and these imports should continue high in the fourth quarter.

Prices are expected to be firm and high in the last quarter.

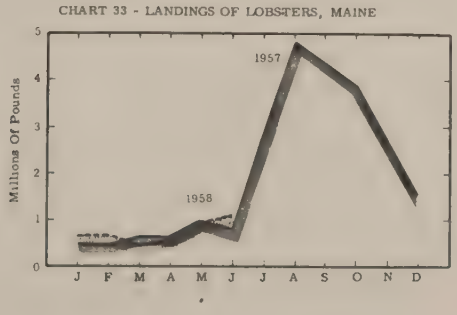
LOBSTERS, NORTHERN

Market - Firm Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Maine Landings

January - June

1958.....4,422,000 Lbs.



1957.....4,059,000 Lbs.

Although landings of lobsters in Maine through June were 9 percent higher than those in the six month period of 1957, the expected large production that occurred in the third quarter of 1957 did not occur this year (Chart 33). The fourth quarter will bring steady decline in landings.

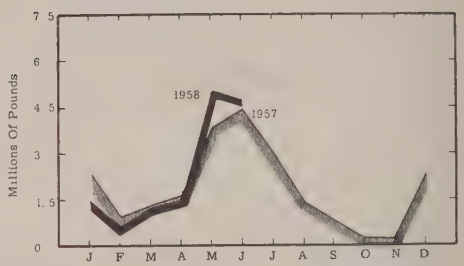
Imports from Canada

January - June

1958.....14,374,000 Lbs.

1957.....14,233,000 Lbs.

CHART 34 - IMPORTS OF LOBSTERS (CANADA)



Imports of lobsters from Canada through June 1958 were only about 1 percent greater than through the first six months of 1957. These imports generally rise sharply during the last part of the fourth quarter (Chart 34).

Prices are expected to remain steady and high.

LOBSTERS, SPINY

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

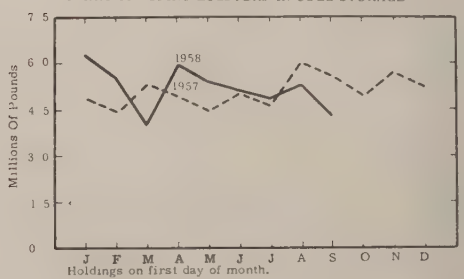
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958.....4,322,000 Lbs.

1957.....5,610,000 Lbs.

CHART 35 - SPINY LOBSTERS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of spiny lobsters on September 1, 1958 were down 23 percent from a year earlier (Chart 35).

LOBSTERS, SPINY (Cont.)

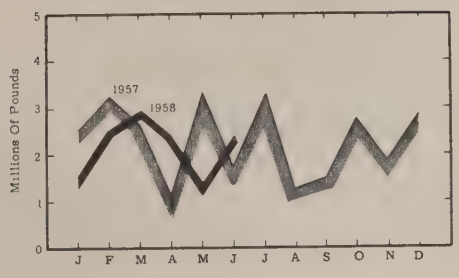
Imports

January - June

1958.....13,213,000 Lbs.

1957.....14,391,000 Lbs.

CHART 36 - IMPORTS OF SPINY LOBSTERS



Imports of spiny lobsters decreased about 8 percent during the first six months of 1958 compared with the similar period in 1957. These imports usually rise during the fourth quarter (Chart 36). Domestic production is small.

OYSTERS, FRESH-SHUCKED

Market - Steady Supplies - Light-to-Moderate Demand - Brisk

Production along the Atlantic Coast is expected to suffice for demand through the holidays in December, then drop off considerably.

Prices for shucked oysters will continue high.

OYSTERS, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Moderate

Stocks of canned oysters, though light should be sufficient to carry over until start of new production in December.

Prices are expected to remain firm without change in the fourth quarter.

SCALLOPS, SEA

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Good

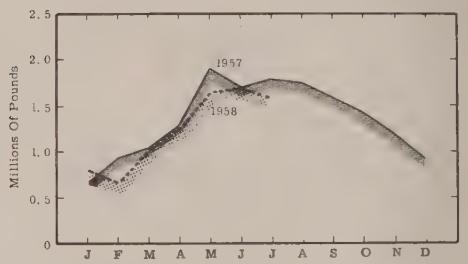
New Bedford Landings

January - July

1958.....8,866,000 Lbs.

1957.....9,429,000 Lbs.

CHART 37 - LANDINGS OF SCALLOPS, NEW BEDFORD



Shucked weight (lbs. of meat).

Landings of sea scallops during the first seven months of 1958 were 6 percent below those during the same period in 1957. Total 1958 landings are expected to fall short of those in 1957 (Chart 37).

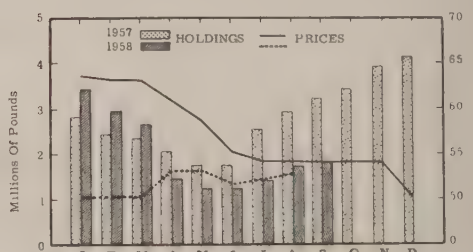
Cold-Storage Holdings

September 1

1958.....1,814,000 Lbs.

1957.....3,233,000 Lbs.

CHART 38 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICES OF SCALLOPS



Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - Domestic 5-lb. carton, at Boston.

Cold-storage holdings on September 1 were almost 44 percent below those on September 1, 1957 (Chart 38).

Prices could rise slightly in fourth quarter with anticipated drop in landings (Chart 38).

SHRIMP, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Strong Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Landings, Gulf and South Atlantic

January - May

1958.....43,409,000 Lbs.

1957.....48,800,000 Lbs.

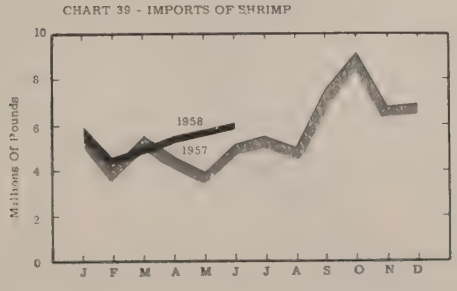
Landings of shrimp, heads on, in the Gulf and South Atlantic during the first five months of 1958 were 11 percent below those during the corresponding 1957 period. Production probably will reach its peak in October.

Imports

January - June

1958.....32,278,000 Lbs.

1957.....28,972,000 Lbs.



Imports of shrimp during the first half of 1958 were 11 percent above those through June of last year (Chart 39). Declines in shipments from Japan and Panama have been offset by gains in shipments from Hong Kong and Ecuador. An increase in shrimp imports expected in fourth quarter.

Cold-Storage Holdings

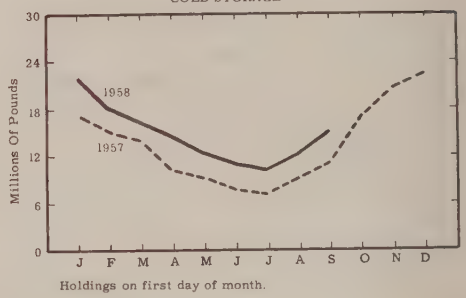
September 1

(Raw Headless)

1958.....14,766,000 Lbs.

1957.....10,867,000 Lbs.

CHART 40 - RAW HEADLESS SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

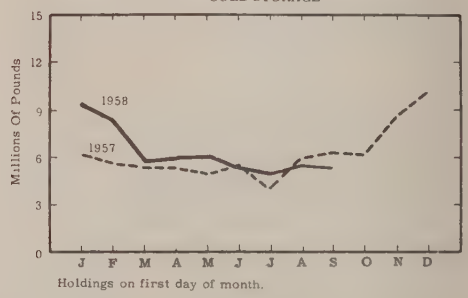
September 1

(All Others)

1958.....5,336,000 Lbs.

1957.....6,311,000 Lbs.

CHART 41 - ALL OTHER (PROCESSED) SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE

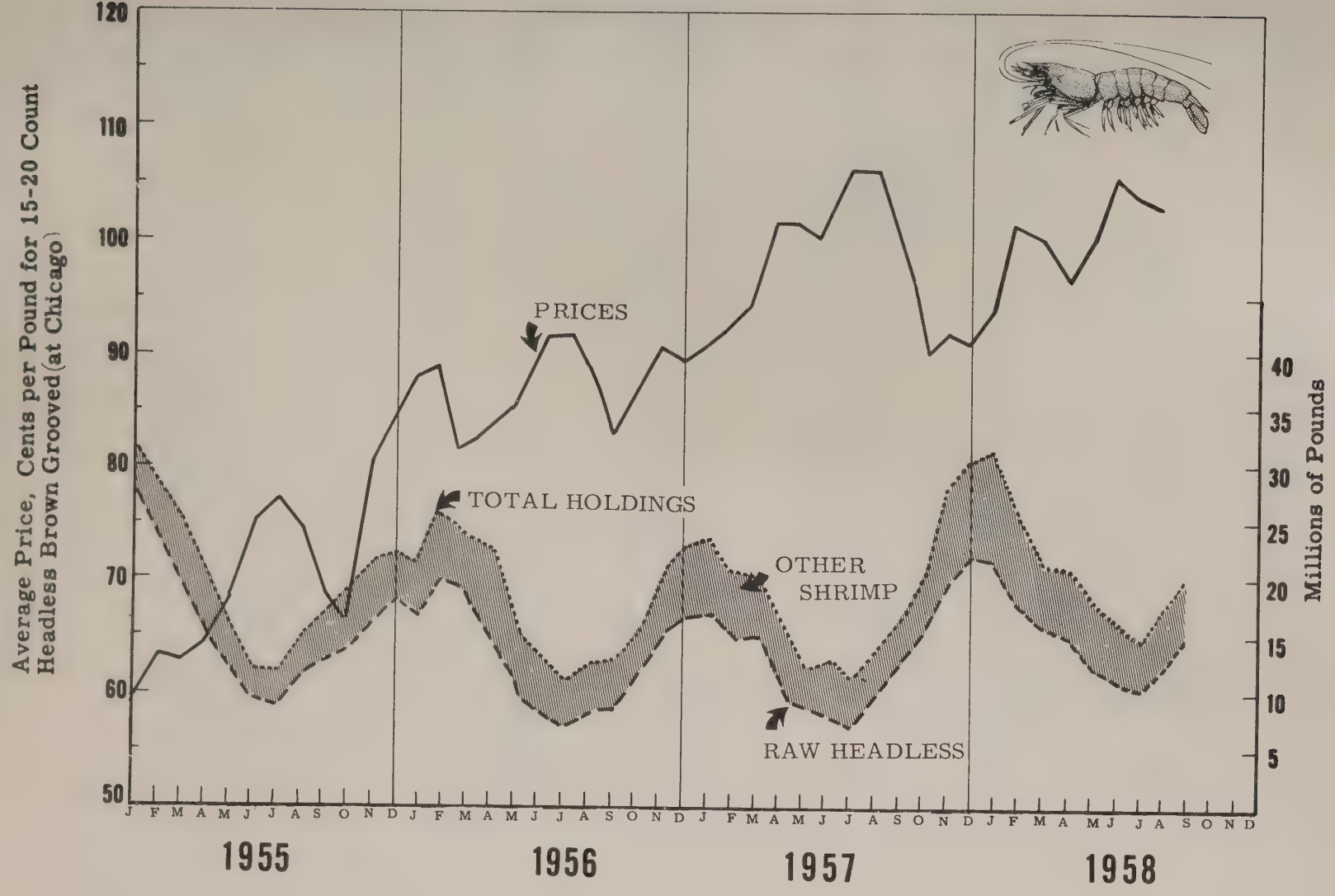


Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of raw headless shrimp on September 1 were 45 percent higher than those on the corresponding date in 1957. Holdings of all other shrimp, including breaded, were down approximately 15 percent (Charts 40 and 41).

Prices at Chicago for headless, 15-20 count brown shrimp during August were about 3 percent lower than those a year earlier. August average price per pound, 15-20 count, was $1.03 (Chart 42).

CHART 42 - SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE AND WHOLESALE PRICES



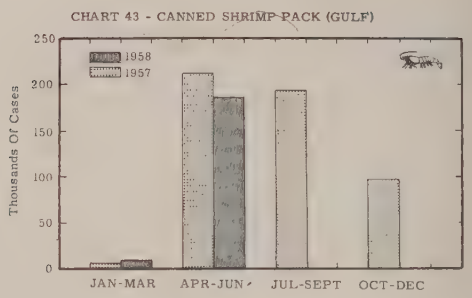
SHRIMP, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Pack
(Gulf States)
January - August

1958.....439,800 Std. Cases

1957.....405,200 Std. Cases



Pack of canned shrimp in the Gulf States through August was almost 9 percent above that during the first eight months of 1957. Production during the fourth quarter is expected to be light and below average. However, anticipated total pack will probably be somewhat higher than that in 1957.

Production of the small pink shrimp is expected to be in short supply in the Pacific Northwest.

Prices should remain firm and high during the fourth quarter.

Cold-Storage Holdings

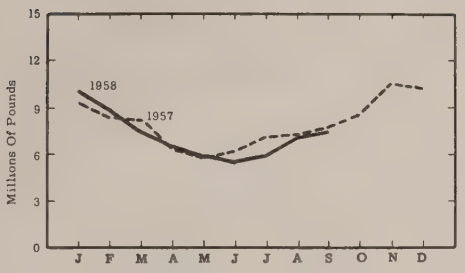
September 1

(United States)

1958.....7,523,000 Lbs.

1957.....7,745,000 Lbs.

CHART 44 - FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

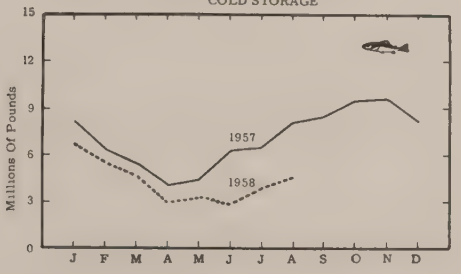
September 1

(Canada)

1958.....5,689,000 Lbs.

1957.....7,082,000 Lbs.

CHART 45 - CANADIAN FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of fresh-water fish in the United States on September 1 were about 3 percent lower than those a year earlier. Canadian holdings were down almost 20 percent below those on September 1, 1957. (Charts 44 and 45).

Fish Imports

(Canada)

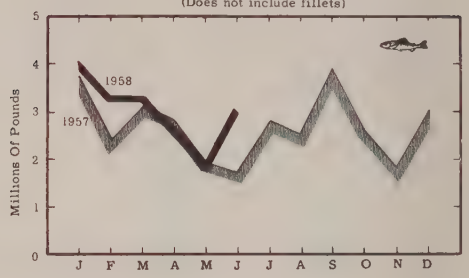
January - June

1958.....18,200,000 Lbs.

1957.....15,600,000 Lbs.

CHART 46 - IMPORTS OF FRESH-WATER FISH (CANADA)

(Does not include fillets)



Fillet Imports

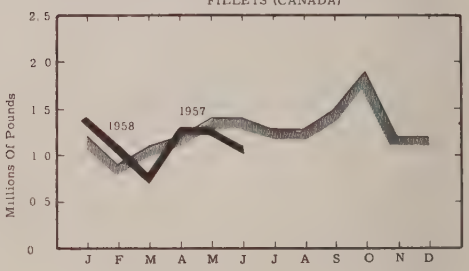
(Canada)

January - June

1958.....6,854,000 Lbs.

1957.....7,180,000 Lbs.

CHART 47 IMPORTS OF FRESH WATER FISH FILLETS (CANADA)



Imports of fresh-water fish from Canada through June were 17 percent larger than those during the same period in 1957 (Chart 46). Fresh-water fillets from Canada, however, were down about 5 percent (Chart 47). An increase in imports during this quarter, compared to the last quarter of 1957, is expected.

Prices should remain firm.

FISH OIL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Moderate

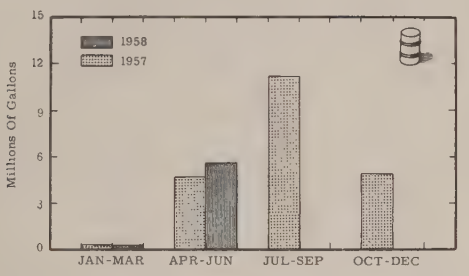
Production

January - July

1958.....9,619,816 Gals.

1957.....9,160,812 Gals.

CHART 48 - FISH OIL PRODUCTION



Production of fish oils through July was up 5 percent from that during the same period last year. There should be some decline in production during the fourth quarter (Chart 48).

Exports, January - June

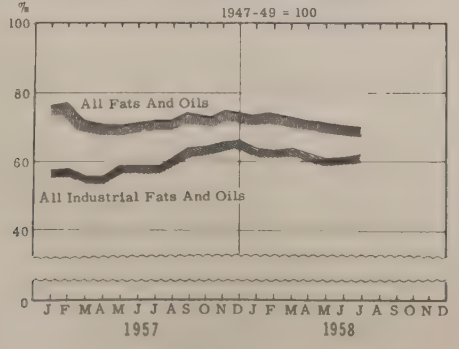
1958.....32,400,000 Lbs.

1957.....58,551,000 Lbs.

Exports of fish oils through June were almost 45 percent lower than those of the same 1957 period. Large increases in shipments to Canada were not enough to offset sharp declines in shipments to West Germany and the Netherlands.

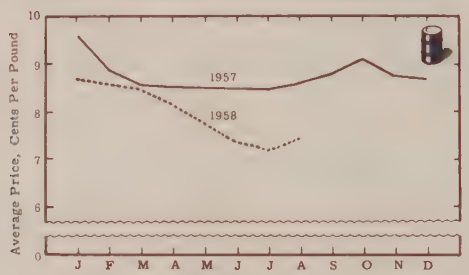
Wholesale price index for all fats and oils for July, 1958 was 70.0, a decline of 2.9 points from July, 1957. The index for all industrial fats and oils was at 61.8, an increase of 1.6 points above that of a year earlier (Chart 49).

CHART 49 - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES



Wholesale price of menhaden oil in August was 7.38 cents per pound, a decrease of almost 14 percent from that during August of 1957. Prices will probably rise slightly during the fourth quarter (Chart 50).

CHART 50 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MENHADEN OIL



For tank carloads, crude (Atlantic Coast)

FISH MEAL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

Production

January - July

1958.....103,632 Tons

1957.....125,428 Tons

Production of fish meal through July was almost 18 percent below that during the first seven months of 1957.

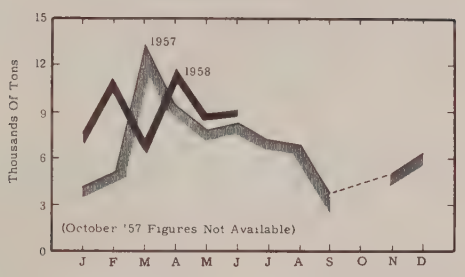
Imports

January - June

1958.....55,900 Tons

1957.....48,300 Tons

CHART 51 - IMPORTS OF FISH MEAL



Imports of fish meal during the first half of 1958 were about 15 percent higher than those during the corresponding period of 1957. The usual pattern is for a slight rise during the last part of the fourth quarter (Chart 51).

CHART 52 - WHOLESALE FEEDSTUFF PRICE INDEX

1947-49 = 100

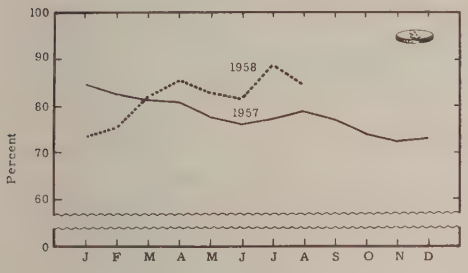
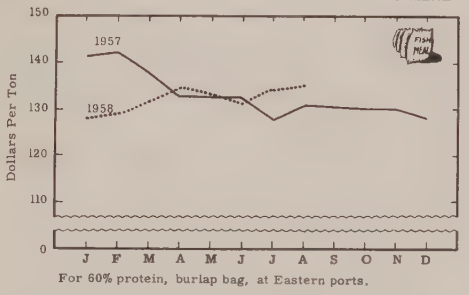


CHART 53 - WHOLESALE PRICES OF MENHADEN MEAL



For 60% protein, burlap bag, at Eastern ports.

Wholesale feedstuff price index for August was 84.1, up 5.7 points from a year earlier but down 4.7 points from the preceding month (Chart 52). The lowest level thus far in 1958 was marked in January when the index stood at 73.9

The wholesale price for menhaden meal was $135.2 in August. This was the highest level since March of 1957 when the price was $137.8 per ton. Possibility of slight rise in price during the last quarter because of drop in menhaden production (Chart 53).

The statements appearing in this report are interpretations of past experiences influenced by current indications of what probably will occur. Wide use is made of interviews and correspondence with representative members of the commercial fishing industry, in order to obtain the opinion of the trade as to the business conditions generally expected to prevail during the period of the year covered by the report. Five-year averages are no longer shown because of realignments in statistical reporting.

Sources of Chart Data

Chart 2, U. S. Department of Labor
Charts 10, 23, 25, 27, 34, 36, 39, 46, 47, 51, U. S. Department of Commerce
Charts 49, 52, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Charts 16, 26, California Department of Fish and Game, Marine Fisheries Branch
Chart 45, Canadian Bureau of Statistics

Market Terms Used in This Report

The terms under the headings Market, Supplies, and Demand are intended to indicate the degree of market activity produced by the particular supply and demand situation.

Market refers to movement of supplies and the price structure.

Supplies refers to available stocks, i. e. receipts, imports, cold-storage holdings, and processed fish and shellfish. The terms used are relative and do not signify any particular quantity.

Demand measures the readiness of the trade to absorb supplies.

Market	Supplies	Demand
Excited	Very heavy	Exceeds supply
Stronger	Heavy	Brisk
Strong	Liberal	Active
Active	Moderate-to-Liberal	Good
Firm	Moderate	Improving
Steady	Light-to-Moderate	Moderate
Unsettled	Light	Light
Dull		Slow
Weak		Practically no demand
Demoralized		No demand

Prices refer to those at wholesale or comparable level.

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Some of the publications consulted in preparing this report are listed below. Publications of the Fish and Wildlife Service are not included.

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- Consumer Credit
- Department Store Sales
- National Summary of Business Conditions

U. S. Department of Agriculture:
- Agricultural Outlook Digest
- Agricultural Situation
- Cold Storage Report
- Dairy Situation
- Demand and Price Situation
- Fats and Oils Situation
- Feed Market Summary
- Foreign Agriculture Circular
- Foreign Crops and Markets
- Livestock and Meat Situation
- Marketing and Transportation Situation
- National Food Situation
- Poultry and Egg Situation
- Weekly Feed Market Review

Joint Committee on the Economic Report
- Economic Indicators

U. S. Department of Commerce:
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- Facts for Industry, Fats and Oils
- Foreign Commerce Weekly
- Industry Survey
- Monthly Retail Trade Report
- Monthly Wholesale Trade Report
- Survey of Current Business
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- U. S. Imports of Merchandise for Consumption

U. S. Department of Labor:
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